

Energising local government



What are the latest renewable technologies?

Can the council really generate income from the energy agenda?

How will fuelling public transport change?

How bad is air pollution in our towns and cities?

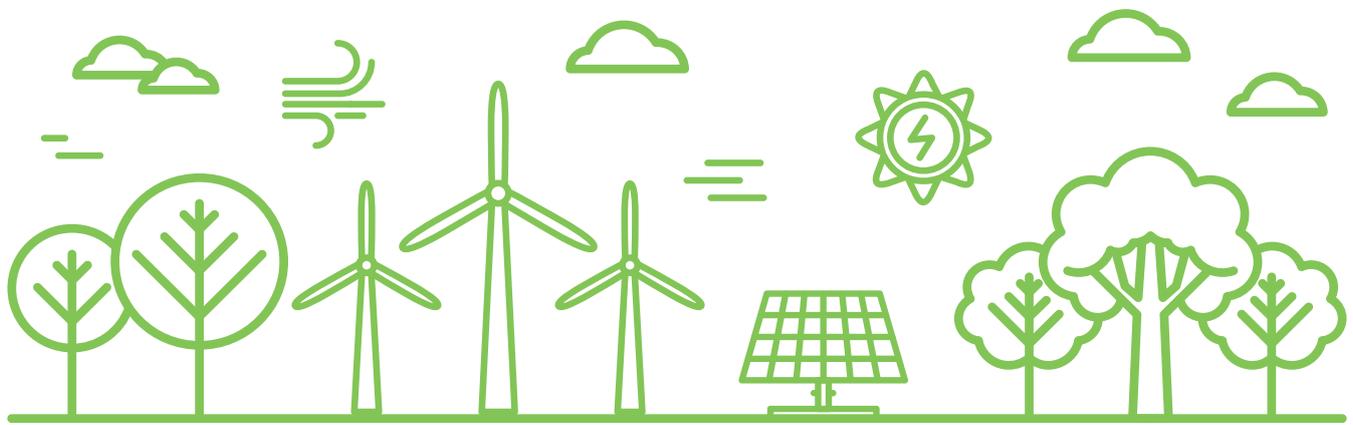
How do we reduce our reliance on the grid?

Can we benefit from using battery storage?

Are we able to earn money from energy trading?

Is the council able to introduce a lower energy tariff for our residents and businesses?

Why isn't every council actively addressing the energy agenda?



Welcome to APSE Energy

APSE Energy was launched in June 2014 with a vision to 'facilitate the municipalisation of energy services'. We now have over 60 members and the numbers are growing. Some are making great strides in achieving the vision whilst others are learning from their colleagues and taking their first steps towards addressing the energy agenda.

The context

The price of energy, secure supplies, and sustainable generation are amongst the defining issues of our time. As things stand our society has an unsustainable reliance on energy and action is being taken at a global scale. Nationally our energy supply market, dominated by the Big 6, is broken and new organisations are entering the market.

Local authorities have a leadership role within their localities which they all take seriously. Providing services, supporting individuals, helping businesses, looking after the local area, giving advice and generally standing up for the community is what they do. Addressing the energy agenda fits exactly with this role. As users of significant amounts of energy local authorities also need to ensure they get the best deal they can for energy.

The problem

Fuel poverty, fluctuations in price, outages and poor customer service all impact directly on residents and businesses. Air pollution in our towns and cities continues to lie above acceptable levels. Dependence on the grid and dirty energy is no longer an acceptable policy. Whilst significant changes in technology include developments such as the move to electric vehicles, distributed networks, district heating and opportunities to sell energy. Local authorities have assets and must make the best use of them. That means considering energy as an income stream from council owned assets.

The solution

It is a difficult job just keeping up to date with new developments across the wide range of topics in the energy agenda. APSE Energy services can help you do so through our briefing and technical notes, events, publications and newsletters. We can also put you in touch with officers and councillors from other local authorities who have installed projects and solved problems along the way and with suppliers.

A number of local authorities lack the internal resource or expertise to take specific projects forward. They may need help to draw up a holistic energy strategy, produce a business case or make progress with an individual project. APSE Energy works with Associates who are energy sector experts having built their experience in the public and private sectors over a number of years on a range of projects. We can provide consultancy support with the following topics:

Access to private sector funding	Financial planning for renewable projects
Access to government and EU funding	Funding mechanisms
Asset mapping	Grid access and capacity for renewable projects
Biomass	Heat networks
Developing a business case	Legal support and advice
Electric vehicle and charging infrastructure	Local grid capacity
Energy efficiency	Micro grids
Energy procurement analysis and options	Planning for renewable energy projects
Energy services companies	Solar PV
Energy strategy and corporate approach	Wind energy
Energy storage options	

Can your council do more to help local people and businesses deal with high energy costs?

Why APSE Energy?

- APSE Energy is part of the APSE family. It is a not-for-profit, unincorporated association of its members, wholly 'owned' by and under the control of its members and deriving virtually all of its income from them. This means we fit the definition of a Teckal company and we are capable of being awarded contracts outside of the procurement regime (if internal arrangements permit).
- All of our income remains within the local government sector being used to provide services for our member authorities.

The benefits of APSE Energy

There are a variety of benefits from APSE membership.

Advocacy

- APSE Energy undertakes a role to highlight those issues effecting local authorities to government, the wider local authority and public sectors, professional bodies and industry organisations.
- We promote the vision of greater municipalisation of energy and the projects that councils are involved in to meet that vision. We have links to government departments to promote the aims of the energy collaboration and raise matters with key influencers.
- We represent our members in terms of key policy and legislative developments.

Knowledge

- APSE Energy provides a range of briefings and technical notes which keep officers and councillors up to date with developments in the sector.
- A regular newsletter highlights a number of topics and provides information relevant to the local authority energy agenda.
- We provide regular research publications addressing topics such as the electricity market, ECO and guides to solar PV and biomass projects.
- APSE Energy has links to universities keeping abreast of academic research and projects.

Learning

- APSE Energy runs a series of practical workshops and meetings focussed on specific events with expert speakers and case studies.
- Partners host events to ensure members keep up to date with technology, new services and business models from the commercial sector.
- The Big Energy Summit is an annual 2 day conference with government department representatives, industry leaders and experienced local government officers as speakers.
- All conference costs, meals and accommodation are covered for 2 representatives per APSE Energy member authority.

Consultancy

- APSE Energy offers a consultancy service with energy sector experts as Associates. They understand the context for local government work, the councillor-officer relationship and the role of local councils.
- They have experience of working with a range of different technologies, across a variety of local authority contexts on strategic issues and practical schemes.

Could you learn more about the technologies, models and opportunities available for generating and supplying energy?

The collaboration network

APSE Energy members have a wealth of knowledge between them. They have day to day experience of putting policies into place which address energy efficiency, energy management, renewable projects and behaviour change as well as working with a large number of suppliers, other organisations and service providers.

Access to this vast hub of knowledge is a vital element of the APSE Energy offer and enables knowledge to be shared, relationships to develop and most importantly, it means mistakes can be avoided.

Who are the leaders?

Signing up to a movement like the one promoted by APSE Energy, the municipalisation of energy, reflects the ambition of the local authority to take a lead in supporting local residents and businesses with their energy needs.

It highlights the councils as forward thinking, responsible and willing to use their powers to the full to address local energy needs as well as demonstrating that those individual councillors and officers are standing at the vanguard of this agenda.

The potential for savings

APSE Energy members and associates have undertaken a range of renewable energy projects. There are a number of reasons for doing so and one of the reasons is to earn revenue to support the services that local authorities provides. Grant cuts mean that all available income needs to be considered and all assets fully utilised.

The most forward thinking councils are not selling off assets in order to gain a one off windfall, rather they are actively investing in existing and new assets to raise income - and generating energy is one way of doing so.

Investment and assets

Local authorities have access to cheaper sources of funding via the Public Works Loan Board, the Municipal Bonds Agency and via other commercial lenders they work with.

The approach to borrowing and risk will be different within each council but where they are willing to access funding and invest in assets, there are opportunities to generate revenue as well as producing widespread community benefits.

The assets which local authorities own, or that lie within the locality, can be a rich source of income. Using them for energy generation or storage is one way local authorities are innovating.

What are other local authorities doing?

A group of southern councils – a number of southern councils are working together to look at ways they can work collaboratively to deliver cheaper energy for local residents and businesses including the creation of an energy services company. They realise they have greater influence by working together and operating on a regional rather than individual basis.

Metropolitan county council in Yorkshire – this local authority is using a field it owns to build a solar farm, generate significant amounts of energy and sell it directly to a local factory via a private wire. It will be supporting the employer by providing a cheaper energy tariff, helping to retain jobs in the local area and generating an income stream through selling the energy.

Scottish city council – this local authority is looking to develop a solar farm with associated battery storage in order to benefit from being able to store energy and then sell it when the demand is higher.

Welsh housing council – this local authority has installed solar panels on its council stock and are piloting the use of battery storage within properties. This will have a local benefit for each of the tenants as well as potentially developing significant generation capacity by linking up the battery storage.

North east unitary council – this local authority is embedding climate change and energy policies within its local development plan to ensure that the statutory documents support the council's aims for the built environment and that future developments are sustainable.

Are you keen to learn more about what other local authorities are doing in this space?

Membership

For membership fees please contact Phil Brennan, Head of APSE Energy, or visit the membership page on the APSE website www.apse.org.uk.

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Visit our website: www.apse.org.uk

Joining APSE Energy is a sign that your local authority acknowledges that it has a role to play in helping residents and businesses ensure they do not suffer from problems such as high energy costs, interruptions to supply and higher emissions whilst investing to generate and supply energy to gain revenue and realise community benefits. Local government involvement shows that councils take their role seriously and that tackling energy questions is part of what it means to be a leader and advocate within your locality.

Taking action on energy issues at the local level has an impact on individual lives, national priorities and global outcomes. APSE Energy can help your local authority have an even bigger impact.

As with all APSE services, a 12 month period of notice has to be given for members intending to disaffiliate.

Does your local authority have assets it isn't fully utilising?

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LOCAL SOLUTIONS**

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